

IN THE CLAIMS



1. (Currently Amended) An electric motor-operated vehicle comprised of a frame, a wheel journalled by said frame, an electric motor carried by said frame and having an output shaft, and a transmission for selectively driving said wheel from said electric motor output shaft or permitting said wheel to free wheel relative to said output shaft, said transmission comprising a planetary gear mechanism, said planetary gear mechanism having a sun gear element, at least one planetary gear element meshing with said sun gear element, a ring gear element meshing with said planetary gear element and a carrier plate element supporting planetary gear element for rotation, said output shaft driving one of said planetary gear mechanism elements, another of said planetary gear mechanism elements being in driving relation with said wheel and a coupling element for selectively retaining still another of said planetary gear mechanism elements ring gear element against rotation or permitting rotation thereof for selectively driving said wheel from said output shaft of said motor at a specified speed reduction ratio or permitting freewheeling of said wheel relative to said output shaft.

2. (Previously Amended) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 5, wherein the wheel is driven by a transmission output shaft connected to the carrier plate element coaxially with the axis of said plate element, a wheel gear fixed to an inside cylindrical surface of said wheel driven by an output gear formed on the transmission output shaft, the motor output shaft and the transmission output shaft are disposed coaxially.

3. (Previously Amended) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, wherein there are a pair of wheels each driven by a respective electric motor and planetary gear mechanism mounted on each of said wheels, an operation mechanism mounted on the vehicle frame, and a transmitting system for transmitting the action of the operation mechanism simultaneously to both coupling elements of said planetary gear mechanisms.

4. (Previously Added) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the output shaft drives the sun gear element.

5. (Currently Amended) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim

4, wherein ~~coupling element couples~~ the carrier plate element ~~to~~ is in driving relation with the wheel.

6. (Canceled) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the ring gear element is the planetary gear mechanism element that is selectively held against rotation or permitted to rotate.